

RESPONSE  
OF  
THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA,  
TO THE LEGISLATURE OF RHODE ISLAND,

ON

*The subject of the tariff, and the war with Mexico.*

MARCH 21, 1848.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

Response of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, to the legislature of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, on the subject of the tariff and the war with Mexico: —That the State of Alabama finds no good reason to recede from the firm and decided position which she has heretofore maintained, or the opinion she has constantly expressed, in relation to the policy of the national government for the protection of the capital and labor employed in domestic manufactories. That the tariff of 1842 was conceived, adjusted, and perfected, with a view to such protection, without regard to a just and fair consideration of the commercial policy of the United States, the powers delegated to Congress by the constitution of the American Union, and the rights of the agricultural classes of not only the citizens of Alabama, but of others in the United States. That its repeal was called for by the enlightened spirit of the age, the demands of the federal constitution, the rights of the agricultural classes, and that it was effected by the wisdom of Congress in the act of 1846. That it is manifestly the duty not only of Alabama, but of every State in the Union, to sustain the general government in every exigency which may arise in the efforts of the federal authorities to preserve the national honor, protect our commerce, defend our territory, or maintain the rights of our citizens; and that in imposing burdens and collecting taxes, it is the duty of Congress to consult the general welfare of the Union without reference to, or favoritism for, the particular interest of any State, or section, of our common country. The decision of the country exploding the system that connected the revenue with banking institutions, and separating the funds raised for the support of the government, was founded on the soundest political reasoning, and most just policy of the national government; and its reversal by Congress would be productive of the utmost discord, not only in the councils of the nation, but in the peace, harmony, and good feelings of the people at large, and that any attempt at such reversal should at once be met and repudiated. In

relation to the war which Mexico waged, and which the United States is now so triumphantly prosecuting, indemnity for the past, and security for the future, should be claimed and enforced, as an act of national honor and justice. That should it become necessary to receive or take from Mexico any portion of its territory for such indemnity, it should be attached to the United States, for the common use and benefit of the people of this country, untrammelled and unconnected, without any condition or restriction repugnant to the constitution of the federal Union, the institution of slavery in the south, or the social or political interest of any portion of the republic.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened,* That the governor of this State be requested to forward the foregoing response to the governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to the Executives of the several States in the Union, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

L. P. WALKER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JNO. A. WINSTON,

*President of the Senate.*